

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of a pure metal [[by]] comprising heating a starting material forming metal chloride vapor, the starting material containing [[a]] metal chloride and elemental metal of the metal contained in the metal chloride, and reducing the resulting metal chloride steam vapor with [[a]] hydrogen gas to produce the super-micro powder of a pure metal, characterized in that an elemental metal constituting the metal chloride is mixed with the starting material containing the metal chloride.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of a pure metal according to claim 1, wherein [[as]] the metal chloride is used a metal chloride having has a valence larger among metal chlorides having of at least two or more valence.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of a pure metal according to claim 1, wherein the metal chloride is at least one of cupric chloride (CuCl₂) or ferric chloride (FeCl₃) CuCl₂, FeCl₃ and NiCl₂.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of an alloy [[by]] comprising heating a starting material forming metal chloride vapor, the starting material containing [[a]] metal chloride and elemental metal as alloying components; and reducing the resulting metal chloride steam vapor with hydrogen gas to form the super-micro powder of an alloy, characterized in that a metal chloride is used as one to (number

of all alloying components - 1) alloying components in the starting material and an elemental metal is used as the other alloying component.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of an alloy according to claim 4, wherein the metal chloride is ~~euprie chloride (CuCl₂), cuprous chloride (CuCl), ferric chloride (FeCl₃), ferrous chloride (FeCl₂), nickel chloride (NiCl₂), cobalt chloride (CoCl₂) or stannous chloride (SnCl₂)~~ at least one of CuCl₂, CuCl, FeCl₃, FeCl₂, NiCl₂, CoCl₂ and SnCl₂.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of an alloy according to claim 4, wherein the elemental metal is ~~copper (Cu), iron (Fe), nickel (Ni), cobalt (Co), silver (Ag), tungsten (W), molybdenum (Mo), niobium (Nb), tantalum (Ta), chromium (Cr), vanadium (V), germanium (Ge) or antimony (Sb)~~ at least one of Cu, Fe, Ni, Co, Ag, W, Mo, Nb, Ta, Cr, V, Ge and Sb.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of a pure metal according to claim 2, wherein the metal chloride is at least one of euprie chloride (CuCl₂) or ferric chloride (FeCl₃) CuCl₂, FeCl₃ and NiCl₂.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of an alloy according to claim 5, wherein the elemental metal is ~~copper (Cu), iron (Fe), nickel (Ni), cobalt (Co), silver (Ag), tungsten (W), molybdenum (Mo), niobium (Nb), tantalum (Ta), chromium (Cr), vanadium (V), germanium (Ge) or antimony (Sb)~~ at least one of Cu, Fe, Ni, Co, Ag, W, Mo, Nb, Ta, Cr, V, Ge and Sb.

9. (New) A method of producing super-micro powder of a pure metal according to claim 1, wherein the metal chloride and the elemental metal are mixed.